

Application No.: 10/069,051

2000P08064WOUS
ROSENBAUM**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION****Please replace the abstract with the following new abstract:**

To dispatch ordered articles order data is transferred from a customer to a supplier of the articles. A dispatch center of a common dispatch service is notified of the earliest possible outward delivery time for each supplier. This information is saved in a database at the dispatch service. The latest of the earliest possible arrival times of the articles at the dispatch center is determined, wherein each arrival time is calculated by adding the respective transport time to the earliest possible outward delivery time. The dispatch service notifies each supplier of the outward delivery time to be achieved, which is obtained from the latest of the earliest possible arrival times at the dispatch center minus the respective transport time from the supplier to the dispatch center. The suppliers send out the ordered articles to the dispatch center at the notified times, and the articles are forwarded together to the customer.